

WHEREAS, Board of Education Resolution No. 394-83 adopted on April 12, 1983, establishes assignment patterns for students living in the Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, and Northwood High School attendance areas on and after July 1, 1983; defers the closure of Northwood High School until June 1985; and relocates the ESOL center from Northwood to Einstein but on a reduced scale to serve students living only in the redefined Einstein and Wheaton High School areas after the close of Northwood; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education reviewed new data as part of the 1984 update of the 15-year plan; and

WHEREAS, As part of the 1984 update, the community involvement process portion of the policy has been implemented because there are proposals before the Board which include new actions in addition to modifications proposed to an approved action; and

WHEREAS, Alternative proposals have been received and considered by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Public hearings were held on February 26 and 28, 1985, by the Board of Education on the update; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education reaffirms the prior decision which closes Northwood High School in June 1985; and be it further Resolved, That upon the closure of Northwood High School in June 1985, the Board-adopted long-range plan for Area 1 high schools be modified as follows:

- o Expand the ESOL center at Einstein in 1985 to serve students in levels 1-5 from the Einstein, Paint Branch, and Springbrook areas.
- o Establish an ESOL center at Wheaton High School in 1985 to serve levels 1-5 students from the Kennedy and Wheaton areas;

and be it further

Resolved, That the state superintendent of schools, the State Interagency Committee, the County Council, and the county executive be made aware of these actions.

Resolution No. 147-85 Re: An Amendment to the Proposed
Resolution on Northwood High
School

On motion of Mrs. DiFonzo seconded by Mrs. Praisner, the following resolution was adopted with Dr. Cronin, Mrs. DiFonzo, Mr. Ewing, Mrs. Praisner, Dr. Shoenberg, and Mrs. Slye voting in the affirmative; Dr. Floyd voting in the negative (Miss DUBY voting in the affirmative):

Resolved, That the Northwood High School graduating class of 1986 be allowed open transfer to Kennedy, Einstein, or Blair High Schools.

Re: Statement by Mrs. Slye

Mrs. Slye made the following statement:

"Thank you, Mr. President. This issue is perhaps the most complex one which has come before not just this Board of Education but two previous Boards of Education. Each time a Board of Education must consider this issue additionally, it considers it in a different light because our circumstances surrounding this decision change every year as we reconsider the question. This year is no exception. The complexity of the issue which deals with program opportunities for students, academic and community stability for our students, parents, and teachers, the changing demographic fabric of our county presents a slightly different picture once again.

"Dr. Shoenberg said at the beginning of this discussion this evening, and I don't believe any truer words will be spoken all evening long that we are eight human beings dealing with a very complicated issue in a very imperfect time frame, and at the very best tonight I think we can hope for a very imperfect decision. Regardless of which decision is made, we will be forced to make compromises this evening with issues that we all hold dear. The values of community schools, of educational opportunities for students, for providing the best academic opportunity for every student in this county that we possibly can are things that Board members take very seriously. Notice in that list of things I did not include cost. Costs are intimately a part of this discussion, but they are not by my humble estimation the most overriding part of this discussion. That is a fiscal responsibility we bear to the taxpayers of this county, to the other facets of our local government, but our first responsibility is to those students, I believe, whom we must serve. We are elected to serve all voters in Montgomery County, but to serve them in protecting the interest of a very particular group of constituents -- that's all of our students.

"The issue then becomes in my mind one of how do you provide most reliably the best academic opportunities for all students in the affected schools. It is on this question I feel Board members must rest the final line of their basic decision. It is on this question which I have based my decision.

"With great regret, I will vote to affirm the closure of Northwood, feeling that this is the best way to provide adequate educational opportunities. I would like to say to the audience as well that during the course of this week when I reviewed all the facets of this decision as they have been put before the Board members, that sentiment which you expressed has crossed my own mind. It would take many more major objections than have been presented before us to make me move away from the commitment of educational opportunity which I believe must be every Board member's highest concern."

Re: Statement by Dr. Floyd

Dr. Floyd made the following statement:

"Ladies and gentlemen, about ten years ago in a Midwestern city called Wilmette, Illinois, I served on a Board of Education having been elected by the citizenry there. We were confronted with a situation very similar to the one which we are confronted with here tonight, and like any responsible Board of Education we commissioned a year-long demographic study, and as a result of that report we had a series of public hearings very much like we have done here in Montgomery County. Those public hearings revealed in summary fashion about four things to those of us who were serving on the Board at that time. The people said -- yes, indeed, you have a bonafide demographic study which shows that we may have too much school capacity -- yes, it may be more economical to operate fewer school plants -- yes, to get to the optimum number of school buildings the Board of Education might have to close some schools, but, hell, close somebody else's don't close mine.

"We have had much advice the past few months about how to address our current situation. To say there is much disagreement about the options that seem to be available to us is to grossly understate the case. Yet, the decision is ours to make, and the time is at hand. There are, I am sure, a number of very important factors that each Board member used or will use to guide his or her decisions. Let me try to address a few points that I will use.

"First, we have had the question about student population in the years ahead. Throughout our hearings we have had Fisher numbers, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission numbers, Kaplan numbers -- you name it. These numbers have all been discussed in terms of low, medium, and high forecasts. We have been treated to a regular dose of ratios, projections, counter ratios, and counter projections. But when the question is asked -- just how many K-12 students do we expect to have in our schools by 1991 for whom we must prepare, we get responses anywhere between X and Y with no reliable statistics that can enable us to predict the definition of X or Y. I do not say that in any pejorative sense or being critical of the superintendent's staff or the planning staff. I say that simply to suggest that there are still some questions extant which seem to have no answers or whose answers are very elusive. There are a number of causal factors, independent variables if you will, over which none of us has any control, and yet these independent variables -- depending upon the outcome -- can affect the numbers. And because of their elusiveness, they render predictions very, very iffy. So it is clear to me that the state-of-the-art in the field of prediction in this field is not developed to a degree of process reliability that we need, and yet that is all we have to go on as well as a few concepts of reasonableness and common sense.

"We have had another point -- capital and operating costs discussed and the impact of those have been discussed rather decisively. I won't go into reviewing that for you except to say that they, too, are matters which we must give serious consideration. We have had

throughout the hearings comments about alleged violation of the policy on the minimum desirable enrollment of 300 to 400 students per grade. There is no denying that the fall enrollments for Northwood of 894 in Grades 10 through 12 is at variance wit